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Suspect in custody after police chase

CRIME A break-and-enter at a Gatineau hair salon ended in a police chase to Ottawa on Monday night.

Witnesses to the break-and-enter at 65 Montclair Blvd. called police at 10:35 p.m., said Const. Isabelle Poirier yesterday. Based on the description of the suspect vehicle, police spotted a vehicle with a matching description on St. Joseph Boulevard.

Suspect When officers tried to pull the car over, the second suspect, police said. A description of stop and the male was continued not released. on Highway 5 south to Ottawa.

Police followed the car to Wurtemburg Street, where both suspects exited the car and tried to escape on foot. Police caught a 45-year-old man, who was arrested and charged with break-and-enter, possession of stolen property, failure to stop for police and breach of probation.

The car the suspects were driving was reported stolen from Ottawa. There were no injuries in the incident.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Celebrity Buzz pg 18

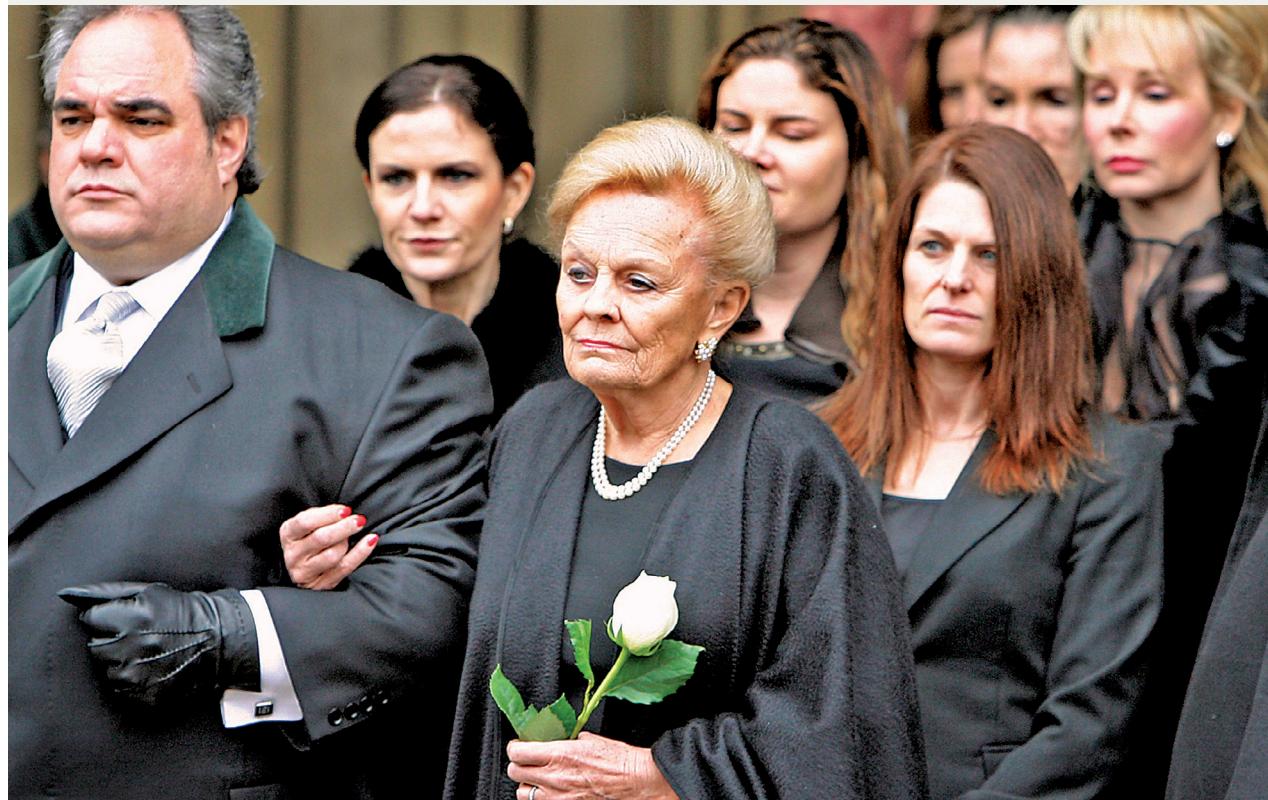


Brooke Smith defends Grey's

World pg 6

Greek riots into 4th day

Mourning Ted Rogers funeral



Loretta Rogers, centre, and family members watch as the casket of her late husband Ted Rogers, president and CEO of Rogers Communications, leaves the church following funeral services in Toronto yesterday. Rogers was 75 when he died Dec. 2.

Ignatieff to assume Grit leadership

POLITICS Michael Ignatieff is about to seize his long-sought prize — the Liberal leadership, raising fresh questions about the future of the opposition coalition that has vowed to defeat the minority Conservatives next month.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Stephen Harper tried to fracture the coalition by extending an olive branch to the Liberals, saying he's hoping the new leader will "be willing to sit down with me" and talk about the economy.

"As far as I'm concerned, his leadership is entirely constitutional."

Bob Rae on Ignatieff facing Ignatieff as he prepares to take over the leadership of a party battered by cash woes, two lost elections and dismal poll numbers.

Ignatieff was assured of the leadership yesterday after rival Bob Rae — the last candidate in the race — dropped out, conceding he didn't have enough support to win. Rae dismissed suggestions that a fast-track contest undercut Ignatieff's claim on the leadership.

"As far as I'm concerned, his leadership is entirely constitutional, legitimate and appropriate and nobody should think anything differently," Rae said.

Ignatieff wasn't speaking publicly yesterday but is expected to hold a news conference today after the Liberal caucus meeting.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transit on strike

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

The strike is on.
Commuters relying on OC Transpo buses will have to find another mode of transportation this morning as the city's bus drivers officially went on strike just after midnight.

The city and the union representing OC Transpo drivers, mechanics and dispatchers negotiated until late last night, but were unable to reach an agreement by the deadline.

City spokesman Michael Fitzpatrick confirmed at around 10:30 p.m. yesterday that the strike would happen.

Although the city said it

would make every effort to come to an agreement with the members of Amalgamated Transit Union 279, things didn't look promising last night.

"I would recommend the residents of Ottawa prepare alternate plans," said Mayor Larry O'Brien at a news conference at 5 p.m. yesterday.

On Monday, the union rejected the city's final contract offer that included a seven per cent wage increase over three years and a \$2,000 signing bonus, eight uncertified sick days and improve-

ments in terms of contracting out of maintenance work and block scheduling.

However, union president Andre Cornellier said the offer was still not acceptable.

"They are trying to make it look like it's all about money, and it's not. That's why it's going to be a long strike," he said. "They want us sell our souls and change our work rules. We're not about to change our work rules for \$2,000. It's a no-brainer."

O'Brien asked citizens of Ottawa to have patience,

and work together to minimize the effects of a strike.

"The people I feel most sorry for are the ones who will have no other option," said O'Brien. "There are a lot of people who are going to be in a very difficult position because of the strike."

The mayor said the drivers have been doing excellent work and most people in Ottawa should acknowledge that, but the city must consider the financial realities of the day.

Para Transpo is still operating, however priority would be given to medical appointments.

Restrictions on parking and transit lanes will be eased downtown to accommodate traffic.

"They are trying to make it look like it's all about money, and it's not."

Andre Cornellier

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BEAUTY
at the Bay

On average, 390 children under the age of 14 die every year from preventable injuries and 25,500 are hospitalized, according to Safe Kids Canada, a national child-injury prevention organization linked with the Hospital for Sick Children. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada



Mounties to test Tasers

The RCMP said they would test 24 Tasers bought before 2006 after a media investigation suggested older models of the stun gun could fire excessively large electrical charges. Last week, CBC aired an investigation into 44 X-26 units, left, used by U.S. agencies and said independent tests showed four of them fired charges up to 60 per cent greater than the supposed maximum. All four were made before 2005.

REUTERS

News in brief

ONTARIO In the supermarket and even out for a stroll, Premier Dalton McGuinty was pestered over the furor his government created with a plan to limit teen drivers to having no more than one teen passenger. That's why he gave in earlier this week and scrapped the move that was part of changes aimed at making Ontario roads safer for teens, who have higher accident rates.

SURPLUS Despite a slump in world oil prices, the Newfoundland and Labrador government said yesterday it expects to fin-

ish the fiscal year with more than \$1 billion in its pocket, CBC News Online reports. Finance Minister Jerome Kennedy, however, laid out a set of dire warnings to accompany a fiscal update that projects a \$1.27-billion surplus for the current operating year.

HALIFAX City officials have determined that questions about bestiality and suicide are acceptable to ask potential police officers during a polygraph test. But have police administer the tests constitutes a conflict of interest.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Welfare rates not meeting basic needs, report says

Welfare incomes in Canada are increasingly inadequate to meet basic needs, according to a report to be released today in Toronto, with Ontario seeing the harshest loss over the past two decades.

In 2007-dollar terms in Ontario, between 1992 and 2007, a lone parent's welfare declined by almost \$5,500 (from \$21,931) and a couple with two children saw a loss of almost \$8,150 (from \$29,207), says the report.

"When we do not grant even the basics needed for survival, how then can we honestly criticize the recipients of such assistance for

lack of effort or decry behaviours that offer relief from such a miserable existence?" says the National Council of Welfare report.

Payouts for most of Canada's 1.7 million adults and children on welfare have dropped dramatically over the past 20 years and fall well below the poverty line, says the report, which looked at provincial and federal assistance for those on welfare from 1986 to 2007.

The report shows the biggest loss in welfare incomes was in Ontario in 1995 under the Mike Harris Conservative government when welfare for able-bodied people was cut by 21.6 per cent and frozen for everyone for the next nine years.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa Rae drops out



Bob Rae and wife Arlene make their way through the snow to a news conference yesterday where Rae withdrew from the Liberal leadership race.

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Most Wanted fugitive nabbed

CALGARY A convicted child molester of America's Most Wanted television notoriety has been arrested in Calgary.

Police received a tip from U.S. marshals and yesterday arrested 49-year-old Steven Andrew Hayes on a downtown construction site.

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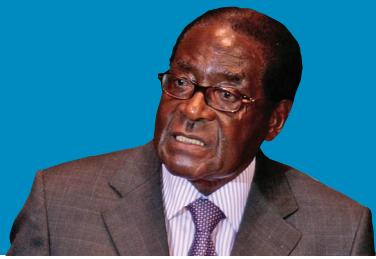
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World



Bush wants Mugabe to step down

The African Union rejected tougher action against Zimbabwe yesterday and said only dialogue could solve the deepening crisis, while U.S. President George W. Bush joined calls for President Robert Mugabe, left, to step down. Zimbabwe's government accuses Western powers of exploiting a cholera epidemic that has killed nearly 600 to try to bring down the veteran leader.

REUTERS

News in brief

PAKISTAN U.S. President George W. Bush said yesterday the United States has made it clear to Pakistan that it will do whatever is necessary to protect American soldiers and civilians.

ARREST Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested yesterday on corruption charges, including that he tried to sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by fellow Democrat and president-elect Barack Obama.

REUTERS

Greek rioters target parliament

Riot police battled protesters outside Greece's parliament and in Athens suburbs yesterday, while opposition socialists called

for the conservative government to quit in order to end the worst civil unrest in decades.

Rows of riot police

squared off with demonstrators for more than an hour outside the parliament building before firing tear gas to disperse the crowd in fresh violence triggered by the shooting of a 15-year-old boy by police.

Bands of young protesters regrouped and threw stones at police, chanting: "Let parliament burn!"

On the fourth day of violence, protests spread to the Athens suburbs after the funeral of the boy, Alexandros Grigoropoulos, whose killing on Saturday triggered Greece's worst riots in decades, fanned by discontent over government and a slowing economy.

More than 5,000 people clad in black gathered at the cemetery, many chanting: "Cops, Pigs, Murderers!"

REUTERS

Emergency talks

- Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, whose New Democracy party has a one-seat majority, held emergency talks with the president and opposition leaders to urge them to close ranks against the rioters.

As the boy's flower-covered white coffin was being buried, protesters clashed with police outside and one officer fired shots in the air to disperse an angry crowd.

His killing touched a raw nerve among young Greeks, outraged at years of political scandals and rising levels of poverty and unemployment, worsened by the global economic downturn.

REUTERS

Women happier sex: poll

STUDY Men are happier with money, while women find greater joy in friendships and relationships with their children, co-workers and bosses, a new global survey reveals.

The online survey of 28,153 people in more than 51 countries by global marketing and information firm Nielsen found that as the world grapples with a recession and financial markets remain volatile, many people are reminding themselves that money can't buy

happiness.

The Nielsen happiness study found that globally, women are happier than men in 48 of the 51 countries surveyed in April 2008, and only in Brazil, South Africa and Vietnam were men found to be happier than women.

"Because they are happier with non-economic factors, women's happiness is more recession-proof," Nielsen vice-president of consumer research Bruce Paul said in a statement.

REUTERS



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Comment & Views

Let's retire the Queen

The West View



Journalist & media consultant

With apologies to Paul McCartney ... Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl, but why is she running my country?

As I've watched the remarkable events of the past week unfold, the most remarkable was the spectacle of Stephen Harper, hat in hand, tugging his forelock in the general direction of Michaëlle Jean, Mrs. Windsor's representative in Ottawa.

You're familiar with Mrs. Windsor? That nice old lady in London with the corgis and the celebrity grandchildren? Her Majesty?

There hasn't been a lot of talk about the suitability of that exchange; I guess because most of us are relieved that Ms. Jean, a former Radio-Canada reporter with not one iota of experience in governance, just granted the prime minister's wish, and Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition doesn't get to run the country, at least not yet.

But why do Mrs. Windsor and her envoy still run the country? Until last week, they have been little more than glorified lawn ornaments. Inviting them to your charity garden party adds instant class. But what if Ms. Jean, who probably doesn't like Mr. Harper any more than Mr. Harper likes her, had decided to give the reins of power to Stéphane Dion and the balance of power to Chief Blothead Gilles Duceppe?

For one thing, we'd hear a lot more squawking about how it's time to end this out-

Here's what we need to do: Immediately, as a nation, we need to grow up.

dated, ridiculous subservience to Prince Charles' Mom. Instead, a grateful nation has decided to put aside any qualms about Ms. Jean, her former French citizenship, her rumoured separatist leanings, her absurd appointment as the Queen's representative, never mind the innate, fundamental absurdity of the Queen herself.

So what happens in January if Her Majesty's Loyal Etc. try to stick it to Stephen one more time? Back he goes, gripping his forelock, to visit Ms. Jean, and she informs him that "we are not amused," and turns the government over to Michael or Rae and their little dog Jack? She can do that! She's Mrs.

Windsor's envoy. Mrs. Windsor runs the country!

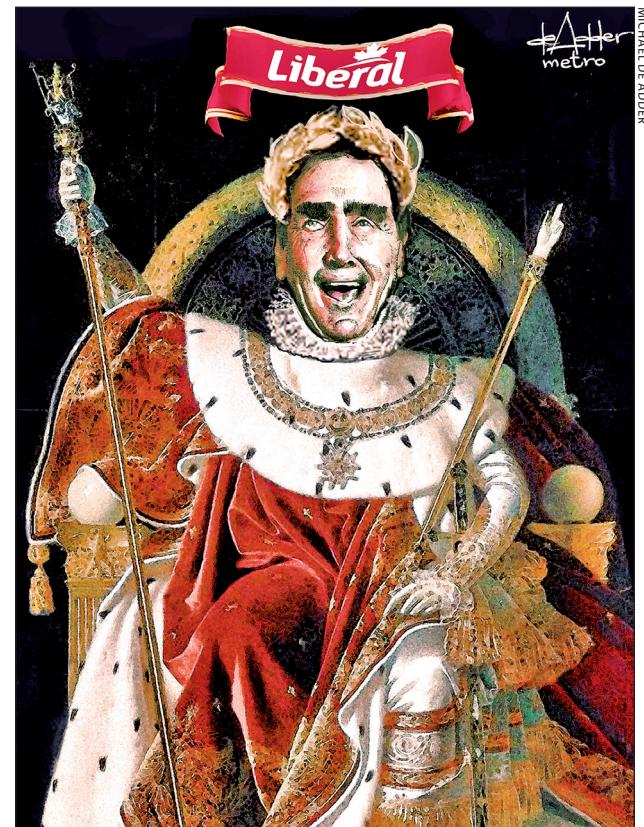
I simply can't believe we're still letting this happen. Here's what we need to do: Immediately, as a nation, we should grow up.

Then, we should send Ms. Jean back to Radio-Canada, tell Mrs. Windsor that it's time to retire as the Queen of Canada, thanks for the memories. Then we elect a president at large (as everyone mistakenly believes they vote for the prime minister anyway), while preserving the parliamentary democracy that we've come to know and love.

We do this through proportional representation, so we get the parties and the policies we want exactly in proportion to the popular vote. Now that's democracy.

And God Save Mrs. Windsor for another day.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.



Letters

A strike for the holidays

I think it is a disgrace that OC Transpo and the City of Ottawa are unable to settle this dispute.

be stranded. I only hope we see an improvement in service — that is, until the next threat to strike.

JENNIFER COUPER, OTTAWA

One less client for OC Transpo

I think it is shameful that the OC Transpo union wants to hold its clients ransom for more money. It already has one of the most competitive compensation packages in the province; not only compared to other bus drivers but also to people in other sectors. Shame on you OC Transpo. This is a client you will not see back after the strike.

JHON THULA, HULL

Word on the street: What's the best holiday gift you've ever received?

Valerie Nolet

age 21, Ottawa

A: My car. I got it from my parents. They paid for half and I paid for the other half of it.



Remi Roy

age 24, Ottawa

A: I received a goalie mask when I played Peewee AA hockey. It had panther decals on each side ... I was 10 or 11 years old.



Sophia Fairweather

age 22, Ottawa

A: The best gift is that all my family is going to be home for Christmas.



Summer Hodder

age 28, Toronto

A: I got a handmade book of memories, quotes and photos that I otherwise wouldn't have had.



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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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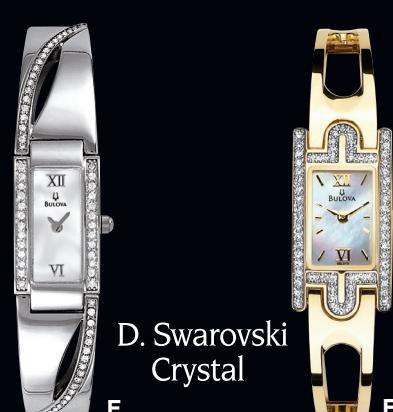
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ONGC grudgingly bids on Imperial Oil and Natural Gas Corp. bid reluctantly on Imperial Energy yesterday. Rumours swirled that ONGC wanted to renegotiate after crude prices crashed. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

TSX slides on rate cut

Toronto's main stock index fell yesterday as the Bank of Canada's acknowledgement that the country is entering a recession hit heavily weighted financial shares, while lower oil prices weighed on some energy stocks.

The comments managed to sideswipe shares of banks and insurers given their close link to the economy, which sent the financial index down 5.34 per cent and stripped it of all the gains recorded in the previous session.

"All this talk about a recession really affects sentiment for the banks and fi-

nancials because they are heavily exposed to the economy," said Elvis Picardo, analyst and strategist at Global Securities in Vancouver. "And it's been frustrating for investors that the markets are simply unable to put together a string of successive advances."

The slide followed the market's 450-point rally Monday and extended a pattern that has been firmly in place for months, where big gains are almost always followed by triple-digit losses.

The S&P/TSX composite index closed down 169.56

points, or 1.98 per cent, at 8,397.56, with eight of its 10 sectors ending lower.

REUTERS

Historic rate cut

- The central bank cut its interest rate more aggressively than most economists had expected, bringing it to its lowest level since 1958 and declaring for the first time that the economy is in recession. It lowered the overnight target rate by three-quarters of a percentage point to 1.5 per cent, due to a "broader and deeper" global downturn than previously anticipated.

Downturn expected to flatten telecom profit

Profits for the telecom industry will become flatter in the face of a worsening economy and new competition in the wireless market, according to a forecast yesterday by the Conference Board of Canada.

The outlook forecast annual combined profits of about \$7 billion between 2008 and 2011.

The board had calculated that industry profits for 2006 and 2007 were \$5.6 billion and \$6.5 billion, respectively.

At the forefront of the industry's woes is the collapse of the BCE buyout, the biggest leveraged buyout in the world, which was derailed after KPMG said the deal would leave BCE insolvent.

Though demand for wireless services is driving growth, "profit levels will remain flat over the next few years, due to fierce price competition, and a slowdown in demand growth due to the economic slowdown."

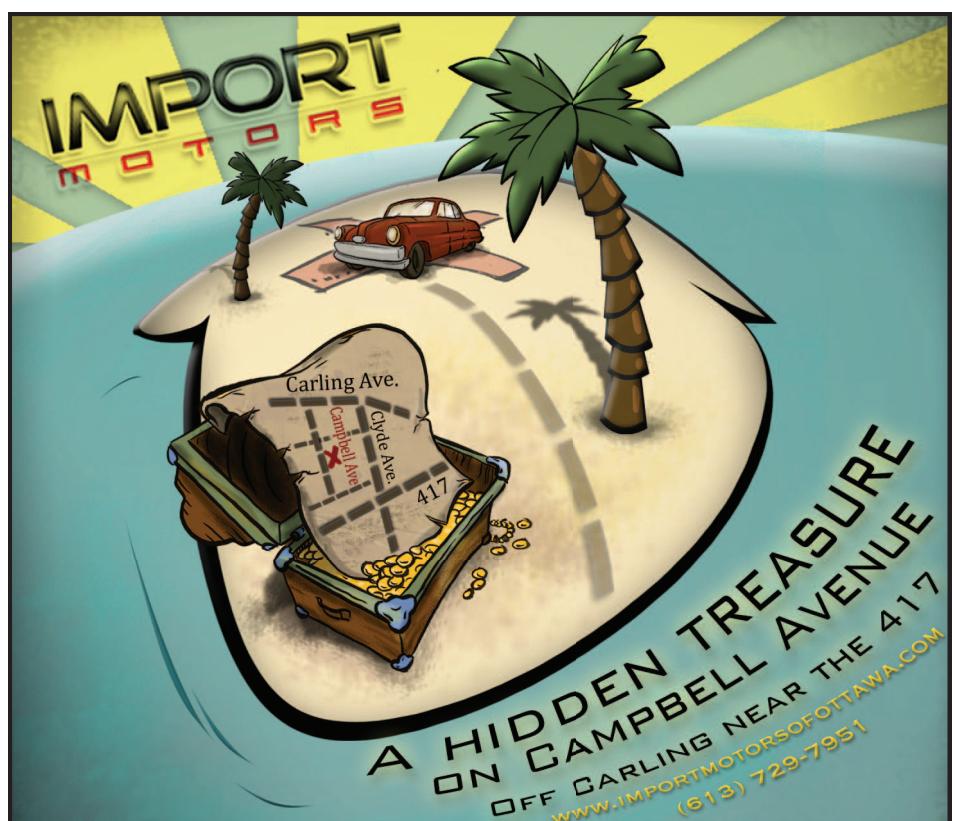
REUTERS

In brief

AUTOS An agreement on a U.S. aid package — negotiated to include \$15 billion US for Ford, General Motors and Chrysler — for the auto sector would turn up the heat on Canada to bring forward its own support plan, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

JOB CUTS Bombardier Recreational Products, the maker of the Ski-Doo and Sea-Doo and private company that was spun off from Bombardier Inc., said it would cut nearly 1,000 jobs and slash production by 20 per cent worldwide because of the global economic slump.

REUTERS



Recession hits NFL

The NFL announced yesterday that it is cutting more than 10 per cent of its staff in response to the downturn in the U.S. economy. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

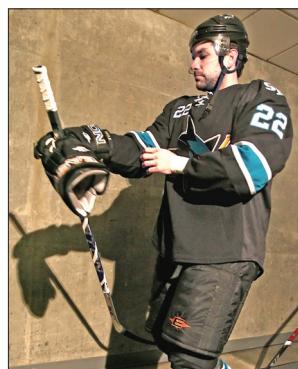
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Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Boyle glad to escape Lightning nightmare

MATTHEW WUEST
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Dan Boyle can't hide the hint of satisfaction he gets out of seeing the Tampa Bay Lightning in the NHL basement.

"I'm only human, right?" Boyle joked. "But to see what has happened out there, it's probably more sad than anything for me because I still think it's a great place to play and it's very unfortunate all this stuff is going on."

The 32-year-old defenceman didn't realize it at the time, but the Lightning gave him the equivalent of a get-out-of-jail free card when it kicked him to the curb in July after new owners Oren Koules and Len Barrie took over.

Boyle, who was asked to waive the no-trade clause before the ink had dried on his new six-year contract, ended up being dealt to the San Jose Sharks. While the

Ottawa native Dan Boyle is currently second among NHL defenceman in scoring with 24 points.

Koules-Barrie overhaul has Tampa Bay (6-13-8) bumbling in controversy and incompetence, Boyle and the Sharks (22-3-2) are the NHL's best team.

"I was planning to be (in Tampa Bay) for a while, but having seen the way some guys have been treated there and what's gone on so far, and on top of that, how I've been treated here, I have no regrets whatsoever."

er," Boyle said. The 5-foot-11, 190-pounder from Ottawa has put the Lightning debacle behind him, not to mention a serious wrist injury that sidelined him for half of last season.

Boyle, who is second among NHL blue-liners with 10 goals and 14 assists for 24 points in 25 games, is hearing whispers he could be a Norris Trophy candidate if he keeps it up.

Although Boyle won a Stanley Cup with the Lightning in 2004, he calls the Sharks the "best team I've been on." But he is also aware the Sharks have been perennial underachievers in the post-season and wants to help erase that label.

"Playoff hockey, as we all know, is totally different," Boyle said. "We had a pretty good team in '04. We stepped it up to the next level in the playoffs. Until we get there, until we do that with the Sharks, it remains to be seen."

Melrose lets fly on Lightning

NHL While a guest on the Toronto's FAN 590 radio station yesterday, ex-Tampa Bay Lightning coach Barry Melrose sounded off on his former club, saying that during his short tenure he dealt with constant interference from people in the organization.

"I had guys in Tampa who wanted to run the team and I wouldn't let them. I was

hired to coach and I coached," Melrose said.

"Every day was a constant battle."

Melrose was fired less than a month ago, only 16 games

into the season. In the 11 games they have played since, Tampa Bay has only won once. When asked if that made him happy, he said, "Yeah it does ... I hope Tampa Bay doesn't win a game in the next year."

Petitclerc takes Lou Marsh

After winning five gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, wheelchair racer Chantal Petitclerc has today been awarded the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete this year.

A panel made up of sports journalists and luminaries from around the country judges the award, named for the former Toronto Star sports editor.

Competing at Beijing in the T54 class for athletes with different levels of spinal cord injuries and amputations, she won the 200- and 800-metre races within

90 minutes of each other, setting two world records.

She also won the 400 in record time and the 100 before finishing up in the 1,500 with a win by more than one second over her closest rival.

Overall, Petitclerc won 14 golds and 21 total medals over five Olympic games. She holds four world records and adds the Lou Marsh to her many other honours, including Maclean's magazine's Canadian of the Year in 2004. Petitclerc joins Rick Hansen as one of two wheelchair athletes to win the Lou Marsh Trophy.

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Automotive

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

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More Zoom Zoom for Mazda3

Megaseller's feisty spirit alive and well in revamped model

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

Imagine you're in the shoes of Yoshiyuki Meada. He's the program manager for the 2010 Mazda3 and his job is to fix something that isn't broken.

One of every three Mazda vehicles sold around the world is a Mazda3. In Canada, the Mazda3 has improved in sales every year since it was introduced in 2003. In fact, 2008 will set another sales record, with people lining up to get a little Zoom Zoom in their lives.

What Meada did was take the overall Mazda3 design concept and keep what was working and refine the rest.

To get everyone on board, he insisted on designers and engineers from Mazda's styling centres visiting each other's countries to talk about the car and learn what consumers in different parts of the world were thinking. His idea was to instill what Mazda calls "the emotion of motion."

Although the 2010 and the current Mazda3 have virtually the same dimensions, much attention was paid to aerodynamics with things like panels under the body to smooth air flow with the car's overall coefficient of drag going from 0.31 down to 0.29.

The biggest visual change is the much-enlarged grille. While it retains the Mazda five-point



The 2010 Mazda3 sees a host of changes designed to improve on the outgoing model that was one of the most successful cars in the history of the company.

design, the wide mouth is there, not just for improved cooling, but is an

actual part of the aero package.

The cabin area underwent not just a major redesign with liberal use of soft-touch materials, but the switch to what Mazda calls a Zone Layout.

Instrumentation is placed in zones of importance based on eye movement, the primary ones being the large tachometer on the left and speedometer on the right in pods directly in the line of sight of the driver.

Housed in a second zone is a Multi Information Display (MID) on the centre of the dash and raised 100 mm higher and to the right of the main gauges. Positioned here, it is still in the line of sight.

Depending on the model and options, it shows fuel consumption, distance and even a 3.5-inch colour navigation screen.

The four-door sedan tested here will arrive in the early spring along with a five-door Sportback hatch in three levels of trim: GX,

2010 Mazda3

Type: Compact sedan
Price: Not available
Engine: 2.0-litre DOHC inline four-cylinder; 2.5-litre DOHC inline four-cylinder
HP: 148-167

Highlights

- Front-wheel drive
- Fuel-efficient
- Aerodynamic

wheels.

Fuel consumption numbers for the 2.0-litre manual and automatic are 8.1/5.9L/100 km city/highway and 8.6L/5.9L/100 km city/highway respectively.

Pricing will not be announced until early in January but it should be pretty much the same at the 2009, with the base car starting around \$17,000.

While my time with this car was brief, there's little doubt the Zoom Zoom spirit is alive and well in the 2010 Mazda3.



The interior of the 2010 Mazda3 is much changed, including a second-tier Multi Information Display (MID) at the top of the centre stack.

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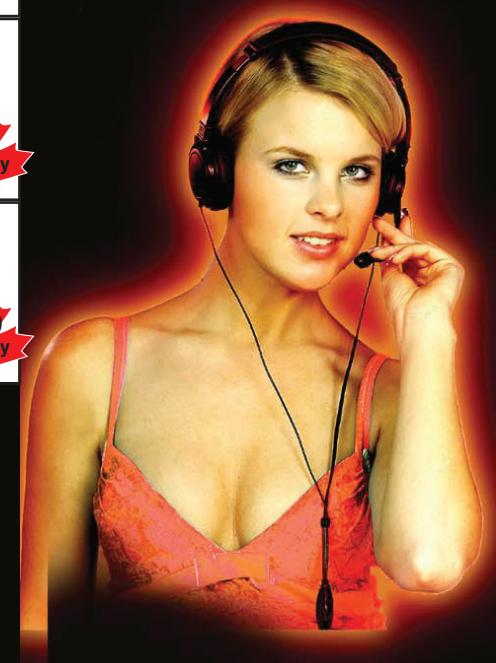
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Travel



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10 ugly buildings and monuments

1 Boston City Hall, Boston: While it was hip for its time, this concrete structure is now criticized for its dreary facade and incongruity with the rest of the city's more genteel architecture.

2 Montparnasse Tower, Paris: Its detractors admit that there is one very good reason to take in the view from the building's observation deck: It's the only place you can see the city without it.

3 LuckyShoe Monument, Tuuri, Finland: It may be over-the-top, but the giant, golden horseshoe that looms over Finland's second-largest shopping mall is said to bring good luck.

4 Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool, England: The people who

work here must be sick of the space-capsule jokes. Even those who find the building's shell "spacey" have to admit the circular interior is spectacular.

5 Port Authority Bus Terminal, New York City: Those who pass by this iron monstrosity might be tempted to ask about a completion date, but alas, this is the finished product.

6 Torres de Colon, Madrid: These matching towers are also known as El Encuadre or The Plug for the plug-like structure that holds them together.

7 Liechtenstein Museum of Fine Arts, Vaduz, Liechtenstein: Some feel the building's minimalist box design is a triumph, others say it's an eyesore.

8 Scottish Parliament Building, Edinburgh: Stone, oak, and bamboo are part of the makeup of the Scottish Parliament, a building that is the subject of much debate.

9 Birmingham Central Library, Birmingham, England: One look and it's easy to see how this genre of architecture came to be known as the Brutalist style. Not surprisingly, the issue of its possible demolition has been looming for years.

10 Peter the Great Statue, Moscow: This 15 stories high monument was designed by controversial artist, Zurab K. Tsereteli, whose statue of Christopher Columbus was repeatedly rejected by the United States.

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Advantage files for bankruptcy

Car-rental chain Advantage Rent-A-Car Inc. has filed for bankruptcy protection and closed about 40 per cent of its U.S. retail locations, citing a decline in the travel industry as customers cut their travel and discretionary spending. The company said it laid off 440 workers, or almost half its workforce. Advantage said it will continue operating at its remaining locations during the bankruptcy, and is exploring strategic alternatives, including a possible sale or merger.

REUTERS

Travel (and get paid to write about it, too)

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COURTESY DAVID FARLEY

Travel writer David Farley in Calcata, Italy, where he worked on his upcoming book, *An Irreverent Curiosity*.

et setting around the world (and getting paid for it), the life of a travel writer is a glamorous one. Trying to get into this coveted and competitive career isn't easy, prompting many to ask: How do I break into the biz? I regularly get e-mails from readers asking for advice. While I do my best to share what I know, it's nice to get a second opinion.

Meet David Farley, a New York-based writer who teaches travel writing at New York University. He has been widely published and is the author of the soon-to-be-released travel book, *An Irreverent Curiosity: In Search of the Church's Strangest Relic in Italy's Oddest Town*, available next spring.

David shares his expertise on how you can break into the travel writing biz:

TAKE A TRAVEL WRITING COURSE offered by schools in your area.

READ BOOKS ABOUT THE WRITING CRAFT. Travel Writing by Don George and published by Lonely Planet is a great place to start.

READ ARTICLES WRITTEN BY CELEBRATED TRAVEL WRITERS.

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ness to your descriptions. Add quotes and historical/political context to situate the destination.

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THE DUTY OF A TRAVEL WRITER is to go one step beyond the realm of an average tourist. Like a reporter, you must talk to people, arrange interviews and get relevant quotes.

MOST TRAVEL EDITORS DON'T WANT TO READ PROPOSALS, they want to see the finished article, already written and polished. Find out the e-mail address of a newspaper's travel editor and send it in. If that editor wants the piece, they'll buy it from you.

PITCH YOUR WORK to local papers, magazines, newsletters and travel websites. Try to get published any-

where and everywhere. After you've got a few good clips, then you can start sending pitches to the bigger newspapers.

TRAVEL WRITERS DON'T MAKE MUCH MONEY. On assignment, it's nice hotels; at home, it's bare cupboards and ramen noodles. Few people can make a living solely from it. Either stick to your day job and write on the side, or become a full-time writer that focuses on travel, but also writes about other passions — food, art, health or pop culture.

SOME PEOPLE ARE NATURALLY GOOD WRITERS, but anyone can become a great writer with practice. Drive is most important. Get into the mindset that nothing is going to stop you from getting what you want. The most successful students I've taught weren't necessarily the most talented in the class; they were the most determined. Good luck and safe travels.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of *thetraveljunkie.ca*.



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14 travelForty per cent of U.S. business travellers expect to travel less often next year compared with 2008, as companies slash spending on hotels and airfares, an Ipsos survey has found. **REUTERS****Top spots to ring in new year**ROMINA McGUINNESS
Metro World News

"So, what are your plans for New Year's Eve?" is probably among the questions we dread the most. As the most hyped-up night of the year, Dec. 31 is a bit like an insanely successful sibling — almost impossible to live up to.

Somehow, you always hear about some "friend of a friend" who hosts the most mind-blowing New Year's parties, whereas all you can remember from last year is the sound of your grandfather clock chiming 12.

The best solution is to go abroad. Whatever you do will be new and exciting — and just saying you jumped on a plane will make you sound exotic.

Guzzle some grapes in Madrid**Where to be at midnight:** The central square of Puerta del Sol

Why: The Madrileños are known as Los Gatos, or cats, thanks to their love of a good party and ability to go without sleep. After a traditional family dinner, the New Year's celebra-

tions take off around the city's main square, the Puerta del Sol. The countdown is followed from the clock on the Casa de Correos building and the tradition is to eat 12 grapes, one on each chime of the clock. Toast 2009 with a glass of cava and throw some confetti in the air, to mark the real start of the party.

Dress code: The Spaniards believe that good luck comes to those who wear red underwear on the night, so build your outfit from there.

Next day cure: Chocolate con churros: Dip these crispy, deep-fried doughnuts into hot chocolate that's as thick as soil.

Sail the seas in Rio de Janeiro**Where to be at midnight:** Copacabana Beach

Why: Be amongst the 2,500,000 people to celebrate the Véspera de Ano Novo by partaking in a ritual dedicated to the Goddess of the Sea, Deity Le-Manja. An African tradition, people make little boats bearing the goddess' image, which are launched and left to float on the ocean. People also arrive



Hogmanay celebrations in Edinburgh, Scotland.

armed with gifts including white flowers, candles and champagne as an offering to the goddess. Stay on to witness the exuberant firework displays on show after the clock strikes 12.

Dress code: White bikini or swimming trunks.

Next day cure: If you're still there, take another dip in the ocean, then head for Café do Forte, a magnificent coffee stop with views stretching across Copacabana bay.

Bogmanay mania in Edinburgh**Where to be at midnight:** Hogmanay Street Party, Princes Street

Why: The Hogmanay street party is one of the most traditional but liveliest ways to waltz into the New Year. Live music stages and a variety of comic acts form an irre-

sistible party on the last night of the year. Try book a ticket to the evening's Concert in the Garden starting at 9 p.m. on Princes Street. This year, Groove Armada and solo artist Paolo Nutini will rock your way into the New Year. Be sure to squeeze in the fireworks display and a glimpse at the eerie views of Edinburgh Castle by night.

Dress code: Tradition might forbid you from wearing anything under your kilt, but otherwise layer up. This is Scotland, and an open-air street party we're talking about.

Next day cure: Brunch at Montpeliers, located on the so-called Posh End of Bruntfield Place. Collapse on the plush leather sofa seats and lazily watch the world go by whilst eating a warm courgette frittata.

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Celebrity Buzz

Friends rely on Smith for advice

MARRIAGE Actor Will Smith is under pressure from his famous friends to make his marriage to wife Jada Pinkett Smith work because they're constantly coming to him for relationship advice, imbd.com reports.

The tight-knit couple are preparing to celebrate their 11th year of married life on Dec. 31. But Smith's famous pals have "terrified" him by marking their union as the golden standard in Hollywood.

"I was with (rapper) Redman the other day (and) he said, 'Man, listen. I've got this relationship that I'm trying to make work, but I'm telling you, if you and Jada don't work, I'm done,'" Smith tells People.com. "That so terrifies me that there are people's lives that I can affect like that just with little stuff, not even having to do anything big. So I don't want to break that ... I might mess something up, and that sorta keeps me in a

place where I'm really focused and paying attention, and I just don't want to step wrongly."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Knight asks to leave hit show, report says

CAREER Grey's Anatomy star T.R. Knight, who has played George O'Malley since the show's debut, has asked producers to write him off the hit medical drama, People.com reports.

While details of his exit have yet to be ironed out, a source close to the situation says it seems likely Knight's request will be granted and he will be released from his contract.

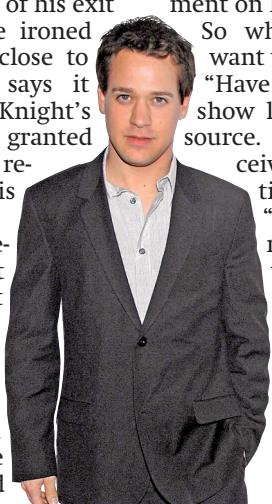
Recent reports that Knight has not been attending table-reads for upcoming episodes or that he had walked off the set and cleaned

out his dressing room are inaccurate, a rep for Knight tells People.

"He has been there every day. He was at a table read yesterday. He hasn't said goodbye to anyone." The rep had no further comment on his possible exit.

So why does Knight want to leave? "Have you seen the show lately?" says the source. Knight has received little screen time this season. "It's time to move on," says the source. "It just feels like this is the right time to go." ABC had no comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Anderson outfit shocks crowd

PEOPLE Pamela Anderson stunned onlookers when she arrived at a prestigious art fair wearing just a T-shirt and underwear, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress seemed unaware of the controversy she was causing at the Art Basel Miami Beach fair, and later posed for photographs while bending over paintings with her bum in the air.

"It was unbelievable. Her outfit was more suited to a party at the Playboy mansion than an important art event," an onlooker said.

Anderson also wore patent pink shoes and a Warhol-style Campbell's Soup clutch handbag.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



J.J. SAID IT WOULD!



Smith defends her TV bosses

CAREER Actress Brooke Smith has defended her former TV bosses at Grey's Anatomy, insisting she has "no hard feelings" after her gay character was written out of the show, imbd.com reports.

Network bosses announced Smith would be axed from the show last month, sparking rumours she was written out of the series in a bid to end her character Dr. Erica Hahn's burgeoning lesbian affair.

Grey's creator Shonda Rhimes refuted the reports, telling Us Weekly, "Brooke Smith was obviously not fired for playing a lesbian."



Clearly it's not an issue as we have a lesbian character on the show — Calliope Torres (Sara Ramirez). Unfortunately, we did not find that the magic and chemistry with Brooke's character would sustain in the long run."

Actor Isaiah Washington, who was let go from the show last year, lashed out at his former bosses, calling their decision to cut Smith "disgusting."

But Smith has defended Rhimes, adding, "It's an end of a chapter. It was a good experience. I'd played gay characters before and I don't think that's going to end. There's no hard feelings."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

I weigh 200: Winfrey

HEALTH In January's O magazine, Oprah Winfrey confesses that she now weighs 200 pounds and has "fallen off the wagon," usmagazine.com reports.

"I'm mad at myself," writes Winfrey. "I'm embarrassed. I can't believe that after all these years, all the things I know how to do, I'm still talking about my weight. I look



at my thinner self and think, 'How did I let this happen again?'

In the article, Winfrey says she has struggled with an out-of-balance thyroid and the condition made her develop "a fear of working out."

She confessed that she's packed on 40 pounds since 2006, when she weighed 160.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Twain may be dating again

RELATIONSHIPS Singer Shania Twain has sparked reports she's dating the husband of the woman her ex is alleged to have had an affair with after the mystery man was spotted escorting Twain around New York recently, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Twain split from her husband Robert (Mutt) Lang in May, following his revelation that he was romancing the couple's longtime secretary, Marie-

Anne Thiebaud, who was the manager of their Swiss estate.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jolie spends less on Pitt

PEOPLE It appears even stars are being affected by the recession.

In Touch has learned that Angelina Jolie's 45th birthday present to Brad Pitt will be another motorcycle. But this year's base price on the new Ducati is \$12,000 US — much less compared to last year's gift that cost a reported \$100,000.

Still, Jolie knows what Pitt likes, intouch-weekly.com reports.

"Since Angie is always in a dilemma of what to buy Brad, she's getting him the new Ducati Monster 1100S titanium," an insider tells In Touch.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lohan to write of split

RUMOUR Lindsay Lohan is begging the paparazzi to stop asking her if she's split from girlfriend Samantha Ronson, assuring fans she'd post the news on her blog if they ever broke up, imbd.com reports.

Rumours have swirled about the popular couple's relationship status since they began dating

earlier this year. They have repeatedly denied splitting, and Lohan has once again taken to her MySpace.com blog to "prove all the liars wrong" less than a week after slamming previous break-up reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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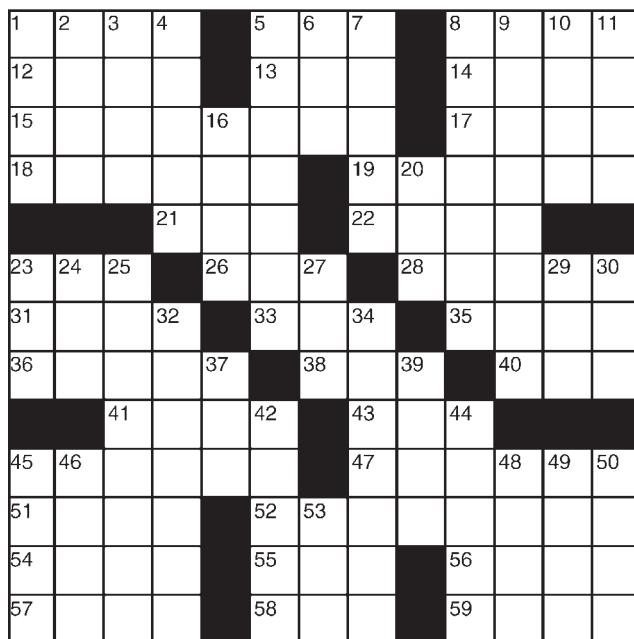
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Crossword across

1 Malaria symptom
5 Bowl-shaped utensil
8 Vaulted alcove
12 Lion's share
13 Previous to
14 Litigant
15 Outdoor vendor's wagon
17 Scheme
18 Walk leisurely
19 1-Across component
21 Perch
22 Medal earner
23 Chart
26 Advanced deg.
28 Windsor's merry ones
31 Piece of work
33 Evergreen type
35 Literary sleuth Wolfe
36 After-dinner speech?
38 Runic letter (Var.)
40 Liotta or Romano
41 Burden
43 Bud's partner
45 Baffle
47 PC variety
51 Winged
52 Bulletin board accessories
54 Crooned
55 Indivisible
56 Ostriches' kin
57 Otherwise
58 Youngster
59 Leftovers

Crossword down

1 Roadie's burden, in part
2 Toe woe
3 "Back in the —"
4 Group character
5 Rich
6 Bobby of hockey
7 Sailing vessel
8 Headache remedy
9 Sweater type
10 Signet
11 Sea flock
16 Office holder?
20 Chop
23 Unruly bunch
24 Mimic
25 Sleeper cars
27 Morning moisture
29 Historic period
30 Sauce source
32 Cause of great pain
34 Established firmly
37 Owns
39 Ham's dad
42 Station
44 Top
45 Contemptible
46 Hebrew month
48 Opportunity
49 Responsibility
50 "Hey!"
53 Popular card game

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	2	7	4	9	1	8	5	3
1	3	4	3		6			
		1	3	9	7			
	8		4		1			
1	3	5	7					
	3		5	2				8
8	2			6	7	4		
6	7					9	2	

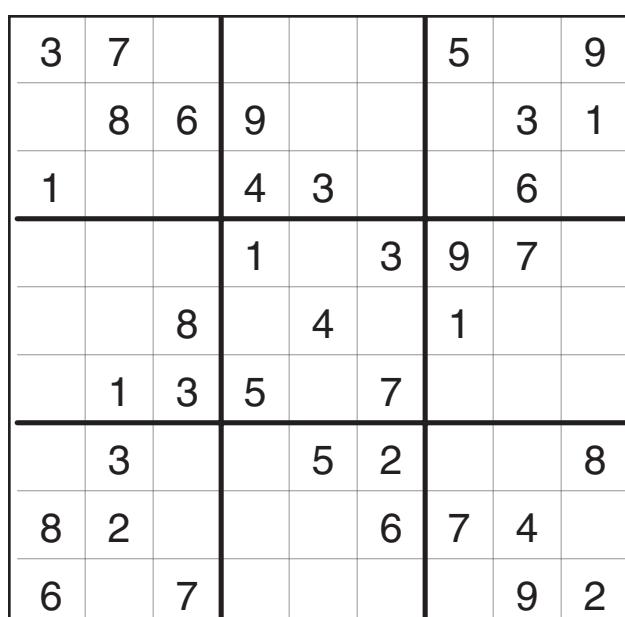
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Sudoku

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Horoscopes

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Disbelief grows after a heated exchange. Something in the news will result in health benefits. Prepare to get up early tomorrow.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



A major life change is in the works. Prepare for a zany encounter. Be on your toes if scoundrels are around.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



A hair-raising adventure takes place. An insulted man makes too much of a bad thing. You are subjected to the whims of fate.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



Preoccupy yourself with a thriller. You'll wonder if you're under observation. A stranger needs better medication.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



Take a careful look at a woman in red. Expect a phone call from a funny stranger. Kindness and compassion will cause a delay.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



A family gathering will come up soon. Keep your eye on a close friend. Be prepared to come to the aid of a depressed person.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



A minor crisis will be very amusing to bystanders. Don't hold your breath waiting for a reward. A surprise provides a trivial challenge.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



Don't lose out in life by lying. Rational people want help with a decision. Don't feel guilty for having an outrageous argument.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



Don't flinch when something wonderful happens. A dear friend is awaiting a divine event. People will talk about the good old days.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



Family problems will reveal a desperate wish. Be wise enough to stop when given a warning. Things will be changed before an announcement is made.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



Maintain your sense of humour at all times. Unrealistic expectations will instigate a change. Difficult decisions will have to be made.

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